

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00322 101510Z

65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 101414Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1056

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 322

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: VANGUARD PARTY COUNCIL TO DEBATE CRAIG FATE

REF: BELFAST 304 AND PREVIOUS

1. CENTRAL COUNCIL OF VANGUARD UNIONIST PARTY WILL MEET OCT. 11 TO DEBATE "VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY COALITION" PROPOSAL AS ADVANCED BY PARTY LEADER WILLIAM CRAIG. IN EFFECT TWO-HUNDRED MAN COUNCIL WILL EITHER AWARD OR DENY VOTE OF CONFIDENCE TO CRAIG AND HIS CONTINUED LEADERSHIP OF PARTY. CONCEIVABLY, SHOULD COUNCIL REJECT COALITION AND CRAIG HE CAN CARRY FIGHT TO GRASSROOTS BUT COUNCIL VOTE WILL BE ACCURATE REFLECTION OF MOOD OF RANK-AND-FILE PARTY MEMBERS. ALTHOUGH CRAIG HAS GAINED SUPPORT SOME CONSTITUENCY LEADERS AND IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALS IN PARTY, NOTABLY REVEREND ROBERT BRADFORD M.P., HE ALSO FACES CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION INCLUDING THAT OF HIS DEPUTY ERNEST BAIRD AND IT IMPOSSIBLE PREDICT HOW VOTE WILL GO.

2. IT NO COINCIDENCE THAT LEADING BELFAST LOYALIST NEWSPAPER NEWSLETTER OCT. 10 CARRIED ADVERTISEMENT PLACED ON BEHALF UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) BY HARRY WEST, OF OFFICIAL UNIONISTS, IAN PAISLEY, DEMOCRATIC UNIONISTS AND CLIFFORD SMYTH UUUC SECRETARY. "STATEMENT FROM THE UNITED
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PAGE 02 BELFAS 00322 101510Z

ULSTER UNIONISTS" DENIES THAT "VOLUNTARY COALITION WITH

REPUBLICANS AFTER THE NEXT ELECTION WILL BE THE NECESSARY
INCENTIVE TO WESTMINSTER TO ACCEDE TO THE WILL OF THE
MAJORITY." STATEMENT ACCLAIMS THE NINE VANGUARD CONVENTION
MEMBERS BY NAME WHO REMAINED "TRUE TO THEIR ELECTION PLEDGE,
THEIR LOYALTY TO PRINCIPLE AND THEIR UUUC COLLEAGUES."
IRONICALLY, FORMERLY HARDLINE NEWSLETTER HAS RECENTLY COME TO
SUPPORT CRAIG APPROACH.

SPICER

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